



email
bike@sbbike.org

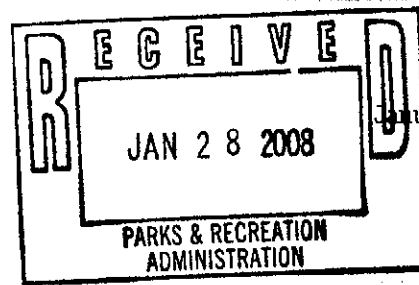
web
www.sbbike.org

phone
805-962-1479

mail
PO Box 92047
Santa Barbara
CA 93190-2047

board of directors
David Bourgeois
Ralph Fertig
Wilson Hubbell
Drew Hunter
Judy Keim
Don Lubach
Jim Marshall
Mark McClure
Nancy Mulholland

advisors
Matt Dobberteen
Erika Lindemann
Dru van Hengel



January 24, 2008

Front Country Trails Task Force
c/o Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

To the Task Force:

The Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, founded in 1991, is a countywide advocacy and resource nonprofit organization that promotes bicycling for safe transportation and recreation. Many of our members do not avail themselves to our community's trail system, while others are avid hikers, bikers and equestrians who regularly venture into our foothills and mountains.

We have been following the Task Force's proceedings with interest and concern since its inception. We applaud the three agencies for participating in this important process, and hope that it will result in an equitable and sustainable trails program.

We believe that the Santa Barbara County Trails Council's proposal submitted last November is worthy of implementation. To reiterate their main aspects, we support these short-term and long-term actions:

- Governmental agencies partner with one or more nonprofit.
- Inventory, assess and survey trails, and compile resulting data.
- Offer trail management training.
- Fund, design and install basic trailhead signage.
- Implement volunteer trail patrols and education.
- Secure long-term agreement or partnership with a nonprofit.
- Develop best practice strategies for trail management based on data.
- Assemble risk assessment and trail funding teams.
- Establish trail planning, design, and construction guidelines.
- Establish a trail inspection and maintenance program.
- Investigate new trail opportunities.
- Create a public record keeping system.
- Develop an accident reporting and analysis system.

In conclusion, we hope that the Task Force will forge ahead to implement the management recommendations. With a growing population of trail users, you, the Task Force agencies, have the opportunity to craft a plan that will equitably serve our community's present and future trail needs.

Respectably yours,

Ralph Fertig, President
Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition